Excise duty on powerloom products

4712. SHRI K.RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Silk Weavers Federation have given call for a State-wise strike for indefinite period till the withdrawal of 10 per cent excise duty on powerloom products;

(b) whether Government have received any representation or have met any representatives from Karnataka in the matter; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to meet the demands of the silk weavers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any call given by the Karnataka Silk Weavers Federation for State-wide strike. The Government has, however, received representations from some of the powerloom associations of Karnataka for exempting small scale powerloom units from excise duty.

(c) The powerloom units having annual turnover of up to Rs. 25 lakhs, have been exempted from excise duty on their first clearances of Rs. 20 lakh in a financial year. Silk fabrics are fully exempted from excise duty.

GDP on agriculture

4713. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of GDP on agriculture during the Ninth Five Year Plan of the country's total GDP;

(b) what is the contribution of agriculture in the country's GDP;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to increase investment in agriculture in future; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) The average share of agriculture and allied sectors in the total gross domestic product